

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087848

EXDIS - CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING CNABERRA 2270 SENT STATE APR 17 RPT TO YOU QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 227

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SHULTZ AND WEINBERGER)

SUBJ: VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 2234; (B) STATE 075644

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES AND GOA OFFICIALS (INCLUDING DEPSEC OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOOLCOTT) APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT US DECISION TO CANCEL SECRETARY SHULTZ'S VISIT AND TO PUT OFF SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S VISIT.

2. DCM WAS SURPRISED APRIL 17 BY CALL FROM THE OTHER DFA DEPSEC BORDER WHO SAID FONMIN WILLESEE HAD INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR SHAW TO TAKE UP QUESTION OF WEINBERGER VISIT AT HIGH LEVEL IN DEPARTMENT. SHAW WAS TO SAY:

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A. GOA CAN UNDERSTAND CANCELLATION SCHULTZ VISIT BUT IS HIGHLY CONCERNED THAT WEINBERGER VISIT, WHICH IS NON-POLITICAL, SHOULD BE DROPPED;

B. THERE WAS NO REASON WHY WEINBERGER SHOULD BE DRAWN TO COMMENT ON AUSTRALIAN INTERNAL MATTERS;

C. HIS PORTFOLIO WAS NOT SENSITIVE POLITICALLY;

D. CORAL SEA COMMEMORATION WAS HISTORICAL GOOD WILL EVENT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ELECTIONS.

3. BORDER SAID WILLESEE HAD IMPRESSION THAT SHULTZ CANCELLATION WAS FIRM USG DECISION WHILE THERE WAS STILL TIME TO ARGUE ABOUT WEINBERGER. WILLESEE HAD THEREFORE INSTRUCTED SHAW TO REMONSTRATE, SINCE WILLESEE FEARED THAT AUSTRALIAN VOTERS MIGHT INTERPRET POSTPONEMENT OF WEINBERGER VISIT AS INDICATING COOLNESS BETWEEN USG AND LABOR GOVERNMENT.

4. DCM POINTED OUT THAT US TRADITIONALLY AVOIDED CABINET-LEVEL VISITS TO OTHER COUNTRIES DURING ELECTIONS, AND NOTED THAT AAA OFFICIALS SEEMED READILY TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT DECISION ON ITS MERITS. SO HAD SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANTS IN PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT. IN RESPONSE TO BORDER'S QUERY, DCM SAID THAT EMBASSY WAS FULLY PREPARED TO RESPOND TO ANY PRESS QUEIRES WITH STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPLANATION THAT USG HAD CANCELLED SHULTZ VISIT AND HAD POSTPONED WEINBERGER VISIT WHEN ELECTIONS WERE ANNOUNCED IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE SITUATION IN WHICH US MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS BECOMING INVOLVED IN OR INFLUENCING AUSTRALIAN ELECTORIAL PROCESS.
GREEN
UNQUOTE RUSH

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